

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03621 01 OF 02 222331Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 /050 W

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INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 03621 01 OF 02 222331Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, CS

SUBJECT: UNESCO CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN ENDED JULY 21

USIA FOR ILA

FROM CHIEF OF DELEGATION

REF: STATE 180636

1. PHILOSOPHICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY, PREPONDERANCE OF DELEGATES AT UNESCO CONFERENCE, WHICH ENDED JULY 21, SEEMED TO REGRET ONE-WAY FLOOD OF INFORMATION FROM OTHER REGIONS AND ALSO FELT THAT PRIVATE MEDIA FROM OTHER REGIONS HAVE FAILED IN PROVIDING THEIR INFORMATION NEEDS. DEBATE AND FINAL DOCUMENT STRESSED NEED FOR INTEGRAL POLICIES IN PLANNING OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AS NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, THE OPERATIVE PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS WERE VERY MODERATE, OFTEN NOTING ESSENTIALITY OF THE PRIVATE MEDIA AND NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE WITH SAME AND TO RESPECT THEIR FREEDOM. GREAT STRESS LAID ON COUNTRIES TO EXPAND EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION AT ALL LEVELS-- POST-GRADUATE TO VOCATIONAL.

3. LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES CALLED ON THEMSELVES TO DO MUCH, AND TO INVEST MUCH, IN TRAINING PROGRAMS IN FILM AND BROADCAST INDUSTRIES, AND TO HOLD CONFERENCE RELATIVE TO PROBLEM OF SATELLITE SYSTEMS. BUT THE BALL IS PROBABLY IMMEDIATELY IN UNESCO'S COURT BECAUSE OF MANY RESOLUTIONS CALLING UPON UNESCO FOR PRELIMINARY AND/OR FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

4. UNESCO ASKED TO HELP IN ESTABLISHMENT OF A LATIN AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY, TO PROVIDE MODELS OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATION POLICY COMMITTEES, TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK UNDERLYING THE RIGHT--ALLEGED--TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS, AND TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF POSSIBILITY OF DRAFTING AN "INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF REPLY."
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PAGE 03 SAN JO 03621 01 OF 02 222331Z

5. CONFERENCE TALKED MUCH OF "SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS" AND RARELY OF "JOURNALISM." THAT "COMMUNICATIONS POLICY MAY BECOME "COMMUNICATIONS POLICING" WAS A WARNING THAT SEEMED TO CAUSE NO CONCERN. SO MANY ARGUMENTS FOR POLICY-- E.G., CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES, SERVICE TO "MARGINAL" GROUPS--SEEMED TO BE OVERRIDING.

6. YET, REPEAT, CONFERENCE ESSENTIALLY WENT WELL FOR AMERICAN INTERESTS. WIRE SERVICE PROPOSAL--SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZING RIGHT OF PRIVATE SERVICES--MUST REMAIN FOR SOME TIME A DISTANT VISION; GIVEN THE CONSTANT REMINDERS OF "NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY" INSERTED INTO EVERY ISSUE, ONE WONDERS HOW IT WILL EVER GET OFF THE GROUND WITH ALL THE UNESCO STUDIES AND INPUTS. CONFERENCE DID NOT SPEAK OF CONTROLS OF INFORMATION BUT RATHER OF EXPANSION OF INFORMATION.

7. MUCH WORSE WAS EXPECTED. IN CONTRAST TO QUITO MEETING, LITTLE SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF U.S., OTHER THAN MODERATE REMARKS MADE BY CUBAN DELEGATE. RATHER, CRITICISMS OF LARGE UNNAMED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THEIR COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATIONS WERE VOICED. EARLY DENUNCIATIONS BY THE IAPA (INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOC.), STEADY TESTIMONY BY IAAB (INTER-AMERICAN ASSOC. OF BROADCASTERS) LAWYERS, QUIET CORRIDOR WORK BY U.S. DELEGATE OBSERVER BELL, AND A RINGING DEFENSE OF FREE PRESS VALUES BY PANAMA WERE PROBABLY HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THE EVEN TENOR OF THE CONFERENCE. VERY EFFECTIVE, TOO, WERE THE LIBERAL VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED VERY EARLY IN THE CONFERENCE BY DELEGATES OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND OF URUGUAY. THEY WERE LIGHT, HUMOROUS, AND WELL REASONED; THE CONFERENCE WAS ENLIGHTENED AND ENTERTAINED.

8. LINE-UP OF COUNTRIES BY PERFORMANCE:

A. HARD-LINING (FULMINATING AGAINST "CULTURAL AGGRESSION" AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) APPEARED TO BE: MEXICO, HONDURAS, PERU, GUYANA, VENEZUELA, AND ECUADOR (REPRESENTED BY MARXIST-ORIENTED CIESPAL DIRECTOR ORDONEZ--WHO ASSUMED HARD LINE AFTER DEPARTURE OF HROLOLONEL JIMENEZ, CHIEF OF DELEGATION).
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PAGE 04 SAN JO 03621 01 OF 02 222331Z

B. REASONABLY HARD: BOLIVIA (IN CONTRAST TO WHAT MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN LA PAZ HAD INDICATED TO EMBASSY WHAT BOLIVIAN POSITIONS WOULD BE).

C. MODERATE: CHILE, COLOMBIA, PANAMA, BRAZIL, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, AND GUATEMALA.

D. LIBERTARIAN: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, URUGUAY, AND SURINAM.

E. ABSTAINING THROUGHOUT: ARGENTINA.

F. OTHER COUNTRIES: NO INPUT.

9. THIRTY FOUR RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED. ONE WAS
WITHDRAWN (A SLASHING ATTACK ON PRIVATE MEDIA BY HONDURAS)
AND ONE WAS DEFEATED (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EFFORT TO LIMIT
GOVERNMENTAL INTERDICTION IN BROADCASTING). OTHERWISE, ALL
RECEIVED TOP HEAVY SUPPORT WITH--VERY RARE--ONE OR TWO
NEGATIVE VOTES (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND URUGUAY).

10. RESULTS OF CORRIDOR TALKS:

A. IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS, U.S. OBSERVER
DELEGATION LEARNED OF EXCELLENT GROUNDWORK LAID BY
EMBASSIES IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTRIES IN RESPECTIVE
COUNTRIES, IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS. SINCE
DELEGATION INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE, INITIAL
CONTACTS WERE MOST TENTATIVE. SEVERAL DELEGATES SOUGHT
US OUT. COLOMBIAN VICE MINISTER OF INFORMATION SHOWED US
LETTER FROM EMBOFF. PANAMANIAN DELEGATE VELARDE LOOKED
US UP WITH COMMENT THAT PAO HAD SUGGESTED CONTACT.
EL SALVADOR DELEGATE, ACQUAINTED WITH IO JOHNSON, WAS
FRIENDLY FROM BEGINNING.

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03621 02 OF 02 222328Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3621

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 03621 02 OF 02 222328Z

B. ALSO, DOMINICAN, URUGUAYAN, AND CHILEAN REPS WERE KNOWN TO BELL FROM QUITO MEETING. CONTACT MADE EARLY WITH COHEN OF VENEZUELAN DELEGATION BUT IT WAS SOON CLEAR HE IS LARGELY MEDIA TECHNICIAN AND ADVISOR. VENEZUELA, WHICH APPARENTLY HAD IDEAS OF LEADING CONFERENCE, TOOK LEAD FROM MINISTERIAL OR PERHAPS PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL.

C. FRIENDLY DELEGATES SOON MADE POSITIONS CLEAR IN OPPOSING, AS IN CASE OF URUGUAY AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, OR TAKING MODERATE STAND, AS IN CASE OF COLOMBIA. VIEWS OF DELEGATION ALSO MADE APPARENT EARLY IN COMMENTS, PROPOSALS, AMENDMENTS MADE IN PLENARY AND COMMISSION SESSION (SURINAM DELEGATION SOUGHT OUT U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION TO EXPRESS HIS OPPOSITION TO ANY RESOLUTION OR MOTION ON PANAMA CANAL. TASK OF DELEGATION THEN BECAME ONE OF CHEERING ON FRIENDS AND CHARILY TRYING TO FIND OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT PROGRESS OF CONFERENCE FROM OTHERS.

D. CONTACT WAS ALSO MAINTAINED ON PERSONAL BASIS WITH SUCH HARD-LINERS AS PERU, CUBA, AND GUAYANA.

E. COSTA RICAN DELEGATION, OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN NEW OR BEEFED-UP JOURNALIMS TRAINING CENTER, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT "IDEOLOGICAL BENT" OF CIESPAL IN QUITO AS WELL AS IN QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION.

F. IN SUM, CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS BY AND LARGE REFLECTED OR ANTICIPATED VIEWS MADE IN

CONFERENCE; THERE WERE NO SURPRISES. ALSO, WORK DONE BY
EMBASSIES BEFORE CONFERENCE ENORMOUSLY FACILITATED
CORRIDOR CONTACTS BY U.S. DELEGATION, AND DELEGATION IS
GRATEFUL FOR IT.
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Message Attributes

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